

ANTI-NEGRO RIOTING IS PART OF LABOR WAR

East St. Louis, Ill., May 31 (Special).—Citizens were today considering an appeal to Gov. Lowden to have him send the state council of defense to this city to begin investigations into the labor situation.

Labor difficulties are primarily responsible for the anti-negro riots which have continued for three days—packing houses and other firms imported negroes in thousands from the south when white workers demanded a raise in the niggardly wages they were getting. It is estimated that near 6,000 negroes have been brought into East St. Louis to take the place of white workers, principally in the packing houses owned by Chicago meat packers.

The wholesale substitution of negro for white labor originated in the Chicago stockyards about a year ago. When girls and women employed in the canning department of Swift's struck, their places were filled by negroes, who, it is said, were especially picked in the south by agents of the packing house.

Since then thousands of negroes have been taken to the Chicago stock yards to replace white workers, while other thousands were picked up by industrial agents in the south and shipped to the South Chicago and Gary steel mills.

On one day some time ago, nine train loads of negroes were taken into Chicago in one day.

The riots here last night in which one negro was shot, two probably fatally hurt and many beaten, were due to hold-ups, robberies and other crimes committed by some of the imported negroes.

Patted on the back and petted by the packing house chiefs, the negroes have been taught by them that they are better than white people, that the town is theirs because they are the favored workers of the biggest firms in the town.

Because the employers want to

keep down wages by holding these negro help, they have attempted to influence business men and city officials to give the negro much leeway, say citizens who today are demanding a rigid investigation of the local labor system.

Efforts had been made to stop the sale of fire arms to blacks, but up to Monday no official action could be had.

Several gatherings were dispersed by soldiers last night but the men met again in the negro section and began stoning blacks and their homes. The mob seemed bolder when it was announced militiamen had orders to shoot only when their lives were endangered.

WILL COMMAND ENGINEERS GOING TO FRANCE



LIEUT COL EDGAR JADWIN

Commander, 5th Reg't, Pittsburgh.

Named to raise and command regiment of engineers to repair destroyed railroad lines in France, prepare camp sites for Pershing's army and help rebuild parts of the country in Northern France devastated by Germans.